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Adele Wilzack, R.N., M.S., Secretary

William M. Eichbaum, Assistant Secretary

April 11, 1986

The Honorable Melvin A. Steinberg
President of the Senate
H 107 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
Speaker of the House
H 101 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Dear Senator Steinberg and Delegate Cardin:

In accordance with Article V of the Council's Constitution and By-Laws, enclosed is the Governor's Council on Toxic Substances' Report to the General Assembly for 1985.

Sincerely,

Jon C. Crosby, Secretary
Governor's Council on Toxic Substances

JC:jm

cc: Ms. Fran Tracy

Enclosures: 7 total; 5 for Department of Legislative
Reference

Dr. E. J. V.

REPORT TO THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
on the
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES
1985

The year 1985 found the Council continuing its mandated follow-up of progress being made in the Chesapeake Bay Program. The interest in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Integrated Environmental Management Program (IEMP) also continues, as the EPA has made the Council part of its review process.

An IEMP Study has been conducted in Philadelphia, Silicon Valley in California, and Baltimore. In this program the EPA is attempting to evaluate and address environmental issues involving toxic substances and other pollutants in the air, surface water, ground water, and land of the Baltimore metropolitan area. The purpose of this project is to identify and define risks to public health and to the aquatic environment posed by exposures to these contaminants; to assess the relative severity of these risks; and to develop alternative approaches to manage these risks more effectively.

The on-going problem of lead poisoning has also been a primary concern of the Council. The Council has been represented at hearings on regulations dealing with the lead abatement issue and has been asked to review and approve those same regulations.

The problem of exposure to friable asbestos-containing materials increasing worker's risk of developing asbestos-related diseases has also been a concern of the Council. Proposed asbestos regulations were reviewed by the Council and their adoption was recommended.

In addition, the Council was kept apprised of progress in asbestos removal methodologies as well as the training given those who remove and dispose of asbestos.

The Employee Right-To-Know and the Community Right-To-Know programs have also been brought to the council's attention, as these programs are obtaining, storing and disseminating information on hazardous substances in accordance with the Maryland statutes.

Near the end of the year, the Council became quite concerned over the ability of the metropolitan jurisdictions to respond in the case of an emergency release of toxic chemicals. To explore this subject, the Council brought in Captain Henry of the Baltimore City Fire Department's Fire Prevention Bureau to detail the plans the City is making with the various chemical companies located in its jurisdiction. The City is moving ahead to develop a comprehensive plan that will enable the Fire Department to alert residents, respond to the emergency and cope with the release.

Because response to toxic chemical emergencies is such a timely issue, the Council has scheduled a symposium on this subject, to be held May 29, 1986. Those invited to the Symposium include legislators from the local jurisdictions, fire and other emergency personnel, representatives of the chemical industry and EPA personnel who are concerned with the issue.

Looking toward 1986, the Council is considering presentation of a symposium on the question of liability as it pertains to toxic substances and their use/manufacture in industry as this problem is becoming a major consideration in the cost of doing business, and investigation of this issue by the Council is an idea which appears to have merit.


Jon C. Crosby, Secretary
Governor's Council on Toxic Substances